

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 9, 2000

NEAR RECORD WHEAT YIELDS EXPECTED IN TENNESSEE

Average wheat yields in Tennessee are forecast at 50 bushels an acre as of June 1, according to the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service. If realized, this would tie 1994 and 1988 as the second highest yield on record, and be only 4 bushels below last year’s record yield of 54 bushels. Insect pressure has been relatively light, but disease pressure increased during May due to cool wet weather. As a result, crop conditions declined slightly during the month, but not significantly enough to deviate from the May 1 forecast. Wheat streak mosaic virus and barley yellow dwarf virus were the main two diseases reported. As of the first week in June, 37 percent of the crop was ripe and 5 percent had been harvested.

Tennessee producers sowed 580,000 acres last fall, of which 380,000 acres will be harvested for grain. The remaining 200,000 acres was used as a cover crop, cut for hay, are harvested as silage. Total production, at 19.0 million bushels, is the highest production in the State since 1988.

U.S. WINTER WHEAT

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.62 billion bushels, down 2 percent from the May 1 forecast and 5 percent below 1999. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 46.7 bushels per acre, down 0.8 bushel from the last forecast. Grain area totals 34.7 million acres, unchanged from May 1, but down 2 percent from 1999. Heading was reached 93 percent in the 18 major states. Harvest progress was 8 percent, ranging from none in most state to 27 percent in Oklahoma and Texas.

WINTER WHEAT: TENNESSEE, SURROUNDING STATES, AND U.S., JUNE 1, 2000 WITH COMPARISONS <sup>1</sup>

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	920	1,080	56.0	54.0	51,520	58,320
Georgia	225	240	43.0	50.0	9,675	12,000
Kentucky	410	430	60.0	55.0	24,600	23,650
Mississippi	165	210	50.0	50.0	8,250	10,500
Missouri	920	920	48.0	51.0	44,160	46,920
North Carolina	580	590	49.0	52.0	28,420	30,680
<b><u>TENNESSEE</u></b>	<b><u>340</u></b>	<b><u>380</u></b>	<b><u>54.0</u></b>	<b><u>50.0</u></b>	<b><u>18,360</u></b>	<b><u>19,000</u></b>
Virginia	240	205	57.0	62.0	13,680	12,710
United States	35,572	34,709	47.8	46.7	1,699,989	1,621,966

<sup>1</sup> 2000 forecast, 1999 final.